NUMB. CXLVI.

The SPECTATOR.

...mo Vir Magnus ſine aliquo Afflatu divino unquam fuit.
Tull.

Friday,. Auguſt 17. 1711.

WE know the higheſt Pleaſure our Minds are capable of enjoying, with Compoſure, when we read Sublime Thoughts communicated to us by Men of great ...nd Eloquence. Such is the Entertainment ...ne with in the Philoſophick Parts of *Cicero*'s ...; Truth and good Senſe have there ſo ...g a Dreſs, that they could hardly be more ...ly repreſented with the Addition of Poetical ..., and the Power of Numbers. This Ancient Author, and a Modern one, have fallen into ...Hands within theſe few Days, and the Impreſſions they have left upon me have at the preſent quite ... me for a merry Fellow. The Modern is ...dmirable Writer, the Author of the Theory of ...Earth. The Subjects with which I have lately been ...rtained in them both bear a near Affinity, they are ...n Enquiries into Hereafter, and the Thoughts ...the latter ſeem to me to be raiſed above thoſe ...the former, in proportion to his Advantages of ...ture and Revelation. If I had a Mind to it, I ...ld not at preſent talk of any thing elſe, therefore ...ll tranſlate a Paſſage in the one, and tranſcribe ...ragraph into the other, for the Speculation of ... Day. *Cicero* tells us, that *Plato* reports *Socrates*, ...receiving his Sentence, to have ſpoken to his ...es in the following manner.

'I have great Hopes, oh my Judges, that it is ...finitely to my Advantage that I am ſent to ...Death: For it muſt of neceſſity be, that one of ...theſe two things muſt be the Conſequence. Death ...will take away all theſe Senſes, or convey me to ...another Life. If all Senſe is to be taken away, ...and Death is no more than that profound Sleep ...without Dreams, in which we are ſometimes Buried, oh Heav'ns how deſirable is it to Die! ...How many Days do we know in Life preferable ...to ſuch a State! But if it be true that Death is ...but a Paſſage to Places which they who lived be-
'fore us do now Inhabit, how much ſtill happier is it
'to go from thoſe who call themſelves Judges, to ap-
'pear before thoſe that really are ſuch; before *Minos*,
'*Rhadamantus*, *Æacus* and *Triptolemus*, and to meet
'Men who have lived with Juſtice and Truth? Is
'this, do you think, no happy Journey? Do you
'think it nothing to ſpeak with *Orpheus*, *Muſæus*,
'*Homer* and *Heſiod*? I would, indeed, ſuffer many
'Deaths to enjoy theſe Things. With what par-
'ticular Delight ſhould I talk to *Palamèdes*, *Ajax*,
'and others, who like me have ſuffer'd by the Iniquity of their Judges. I ſhould examine the Wiſdom of that great Prince, who carried ſuch mighty
'Forces againſt *Troy*; and argue with *Ulyſſes* and
'*Siſyphus*, upon difficult Points, as I have in Converſation here, without being in danger of being
'Condemned. But let not thoſe among you who
'have pronounced me an Innocent Man be afraid
'of Death. No Harm can arrive at a good Man
'whether Dead or Living, his Affairs are always
'under the Direction of the Gods; nor will I believe the Fate which is allotted to me my ſelf this
'Day to have arrived by Chance, nor have I ought
'to ſay either againſt my Judges or Accuſers, but
'that they thought they did me an Injury.—But I
'detain you too long, it is time that I retire to
'Death, and you to your Affairs of Life; which of
'us has the better is known to the Gods, but to
'no Mortal Man.

The Divine *Socrates* is here repreſented in a Figure worthy his great Wiſdom and Philoſophy, worthy the greateſt mere Man that ever breath'd. But the Modern Diſcourſe is written upon a Subject no leſs than the Diſſolution of Nature it ſelf. Oh how Glorious is the old Age of that great Man, who has ſpent his Time in ſuch Contemplations as has made this Being, what only it ſhould be, an Education for Heaven! He has, according to the Lights of Reaſon and Revelation, which ſeem'd to him cleareſt, traced the

the Steps of Omnipotence: He has, with a Cæleſtial Ambition, as far as it is conſiſtent with Humility and Devotion, examined the Ways of Providence, from the Creation to the Diſſolution of the viſible World. How pleaſing muſt have been the Speculation, to obſerve Nature and Providence move together, the Phyſical and Moral World march the ſame pace: To obſerve Paradice and Eternal Spring the Seat of Innocence, Troubled Seaſons and Angry Skies the Portion of Wickedneſs and Vice! When this Admirable Author has reviewed all that has paſſed, or is to come, which relates to the Habitable World, and run through the whole Fate of it, how could a Guardian Angel, that had attended it through all its Courſes or Changes, ſpeak more emphatically at the end of his Charge than does our Author, when he makes, as it were, a Funeral Oration over this Globe, looking to the Point where I once ſtood?

'Let us only, if you pleaſe, to take leave of this 'Subject, reflect, upon this Occaſion, on the Vani- 'ty and tranſient Glory of this Habitable World. 'How by the force of one Element breaking looſe 'upon the reſt, all the Vanities of Nature, all the 'Works of Art, all the Labours of Men, are re- 'duced to Nothing. All that we admired and a- 'dored before as Great and Magnificent, is oblittera- 'ted or vaniſhed; and another Form and Face of 'Things, plain, ſimple, and every where the ſame, 'overſpreads the whole Earth. Where are now 'the Great Empires of the World, and their great 'Imperial Cities? Their Pillars, Trophies and 'Monuments of Glory? Show me where they ſtood, 'read the Inſcription, tell me the Victor's Name. 'What Remains, what Impreſſions, what Diffe- 'rence or Diſtinction do you ſee in this Maſs of 'Fire? *Rome* if ſelf, eternal *Rome*, the great City, 'the Empreſs of the World, whoſe Domination and 'Superſtition, Ancient and Modern, make a great 'part of the Hiſtory of this Earth, What is become 'of her now? She laid her Foundations deep, and 'her Palaces were ſtrong and ſumptuous; *She Glo- 'rified her ſelf, and lived deliciouſly, and ſaid in her 'heart I ſit a Queen, and ſhall ſee no Sorrow*: But 'her Hour is come, ſhe is wiped away from the 'Face of the Earth, and buried in Everlaſting Ob- 'livion. But it is not Cities only, and Works of 'Men's Hands, but the Everlaſting Hills, the Moun- 'tains and Rocks of the Earth are melted as Wax 'before the Sun, and *their Place is no where found.* 'Here ſtood the *Alpes*, the Load of the Earth, that 'covered many Countries, and reached their Arms 'from the Ocean to the Black Sea; this huge Maſs 'of Stone is ſoftned and diſſolved as a tender Cloud 'into Rain. Here ſtood the *African* Mountains, 'and *Atlas* with his Top above the Clouds. There 'was frozen *Caucaſus*, and *Taurus*, and *Imaus*, and 'the Mountains of *Aſia*. And yonder towards the 'North ſtood the *Riphæan* Hills, cloath'd in Ice 'and Snow. All theſe are vaniſhed, dropt away 'as the Snow upon their Heads. *Great and Mar- 'vellous are thy Works, Juſt and True are thy Ways, 'thou King of Saints! Hallelujah!*

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Mo- July, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. Ja- Street; Mrs. Bond at the Old Vine at Cha- Croſs; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Hou- vent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Co- Beaufort-Buildings; Mrs. Treganey, near Eſſex-St- Mrs. Boulter next the Roſe Tavern at Temple Ba- Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Ch- in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Ch- Yard; Mr. Roundin Exchange Alley, and Mrs. B- win in Warwick-lane; where alſo may be had th- the Months of March, April, May and June.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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By her Majeſty's Company of Comedia-

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, this pre- Friday being the 17th Day of Auguſt, will be preſented A- Comedy call'd the City Ramble, or A Play-houſe Wedding, principal Parts to be Perform'd by Mr. Mills, Mr. Booth, Mr. G- ſon, Mr. Bullock, Mr. Norris, Mr. Peck, Mr. Bullock Jun. Elrington, Mr. Burkhead, Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Bra- Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Willis, and Miſs Sherbar-.

There is to be Sold at very low Rates at Mr. H- rell's, Watchmaker, at the Unicorn and Dyal up one pair of ſ- near Strand-bridge, all ſorts of Muſlin Cravats, and Holland Cambricks for Handkerchiefs, being the Goods of ſeveral Perſons failed. The Cravats are put up 3 in a Paper, and the Price upon each Parcel.

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Juſt Publiſh'd,

The Second Vol. of the Peerage of England, c- Genealogical and Hiſtorical Account of all the Families of this K- dom who have born the Dignity of Peerage, either by Tenure, S- mons to Parliament, Inveſtiture or Creation, &c. from the Saxon T- to this preſent Year 1711. In which is contain'd ſome Memo- of the Lives of the moſt Eminent Perſons this Nation has ever p- duc'd; the Date of their Summons to Parliament, Advancement n- urs and Imployments, their Marriages and Iſſue, with the Origin- many Ancient Families not to be found in Sir William Dugdale, any other Printed Author, and the Continuation of Several others are ſtill Exiſting in their Collateral Branches: Faithfully Collected, approved Manuſcripts, Publick Hiſtories and Records, and other c- dible Authorities; and, with the Firſt Vol. of this Work, Compl- the Whole Peerage of England to this Time, in two Parts. Printed Egbert Sanger, at the Poſt-houſe at the Middle Temple-gate, and Collins at the Black Boy, in Fleetſtreet.

An Account of the preſent State and Governme- of the Empire of Germany: In a Letter to Thomas Foley of W- ley in the County of Worceſter, Eſq; by M. LeVaſſor. Printed Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over againſt Catherine-ſtreet the Strand.

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